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ABSTRACT

The programed course was written to help jail officers assume the demands of jail work and emphasizes that, in addition to routine tasks, officers must be fully prepared to serve an important function for society as well-trained, responsible professionals. Much of the officer's job will depend on his ability to make decisions and to avoid the mistakes and disproven beliefs of the past. The course material includes discussions of mistakes which other men and women have made on the job; this anecdotal background material was supplied by Federal Jail Inspectors. The first book of the course illustrates the vital role the jail officer plays in society's attempt to control crime through an examination of the way corrections has developed from inhumane and ineffective punishment to enlightened corrections. This background material provides insights and understandings which must precede competent performance of the officer's duties. (Author/AJ)

ED 095258

Jail Operations

A Training Course for Jail Officers

Programmed Instruction: Book 1: Correctional History & Philosophy

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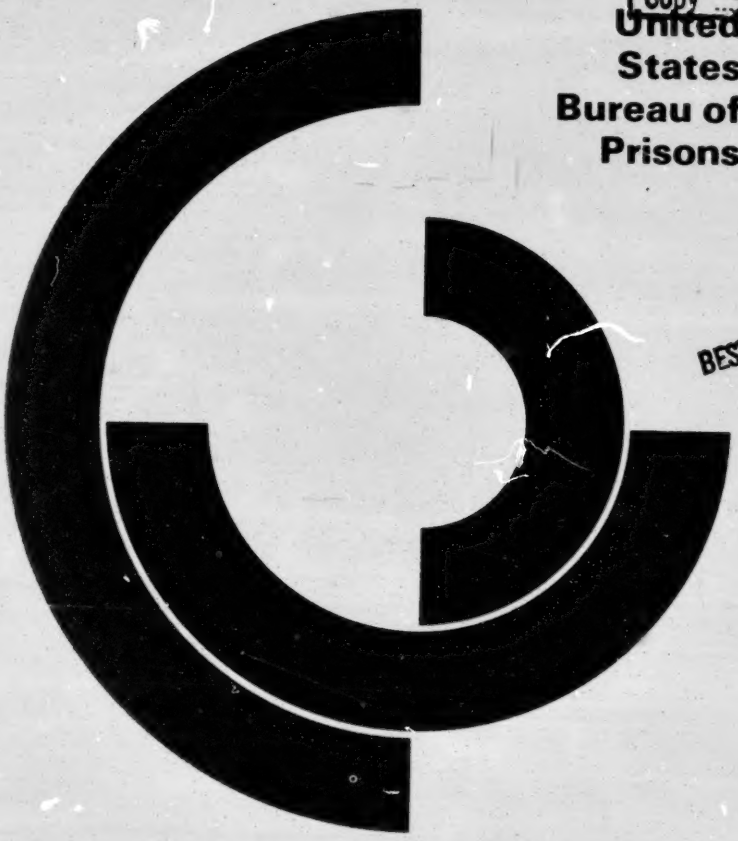
United States Bureau of Prisons



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Jail Operations

A Programmed Instruction Course based on the text, The Jail: Its Operation and Management

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Book Six: SPECIAL PRISONERS

Preface

This course is for jail officers. It was written to help them assume the difficult and challenging demands of jail work. The course emphasizes that, in addition to the routine tasks which officers must learn to perform in the jail, they must also be fully prepared to serve an important function for society as well-trained, responsible professionals. Much of the jail officer's job will depend on his ability to make important decisions and to avoid the mistakes and disproven beliefs of the past. The course material includes discussions of mistakes which other men and women have made on the job; it is hoped that jail officers can learn from these things and avoid making the same errors. Naturally, there can be no substitute for actual on-the-job experience. But it is hoped that by participating in this course, jail officers will be better prepared to perform in a professional, competent manner on the job than if they were required to learn only "by doing".

Alice H. Blumer
Madison, Wisconsin

Acknowledgement

Much of the anecdotal background material found in these pages was supplied by the Federal Jail Inspectors who willingly devoted their time recalling pertinent experiences for the author. The author is indebted to these men, their material has done much to enliven these pages.

The Jail Inspectors also contributed time and effort to the field testing of the material. They are: John L. Anderson, Charles R. Burns, Frank D. Chastain, Merlyn D. Coons, John W. Cossett, Hugh R. Crum, Francis J. Kirkland, John W. McGinnis, Max L. Mustain, Oscar L. Olive, and Hubert H. Raney.

Throughout the development stages of this course, the men of the Dane County Jail, Madison, Wisconsin, have consistently cooperated with and assisted the author, not only by supplying necessary details, but also by carefully reading and responding to the material. The author wishes to thank Sheriff Vernon C. Leslie for allowing free access to the jail. Special thanks go to Captain Otis R. Lund who devoted much time to interviews and supplied needed information to the author. In addition, the following men spent many hours with the author reading and responding to material, and answering endless questions:

Deputy William C. Ludwig
Deputy Edward C. Pohlman

During the evaluation period, eleven jails offered time and manpower to participating in the sometimes long and involved steps necessary for course evaluation. The author wishes to thank the jail administrators and the men and women involved from the following jails:

Ada County Jail, Boise, Idaho
Bexar County Jail, San Antonio, Texas
Chesapeake City Jail, Chesapeake, Virginia
Franklin County Jail, Columbus, Ohio
Hamilton County Jail, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Imperial County Jail, El Centro, California
McCracken County Jail, Paducah, Kentucky
Tulsa County Jail, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Warren County Jail, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Wyandotte County Jail, Kansas City, Kansas
York County Jail, York, Pennsylvania

Note to the Reader

This course has been written in a form known as Programmed Instruction. It is *not a test*. Programmed Instruction enables you to work alone, without a teacher, and at your own pace. To participate in this type of course, all you have to do is read carefully, follow instructions and complete each book. You cannot use this course like a magazine; that is, opening at the middle and flipping through the pages. It is very important that you *begin at the beginning* and read all the material. You will see that, throughout the course, when you read some material, you will be asked to respond to some written questions and then check your answer by comparing it to the printed answer appearing on the following page. This is not, in any way, a test. It is simply a way of helping you to learn and remember the material. You will not be timed while taking this course, so you may go at your own pace, taking a break whenever you feel tired. We think you will enjoy learning in this manner, and hope that you will finish the course with a renewed feeling of pride in your profession and in your ability to perform your job with skill and confidence.

BOOK ONE:

CORRECTIONAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

Introduction

The vital role you play in society's attempt to control crime is illustrated by the discussion in this chapter. Through an examination of the way corrections has developed from inhumane and ineffective punishment to enlightened corrections, you will understand more clearly your role as a jail officer. A study of this chapter will not help you to admit a prisoner, or react constructively to belligerent prisoners. This background material will, however, give you insights and understanding that must precede competent performance of your duties.

In ancient times, there were no courts and jails as we now know them. If one person harmed or wronged another, the victim's family took revenge. This type of individual revenge resulted in blood feuds between whole families.

As families became larger and larger, blood feuds became very dangerous and, in fact, often turned into small civil wars. Such wars weakened whole towns and made them easy for enemies to conquer.

In order to avoid these civil wars, a system of money payment was developed. The wronged person or group could demand and be paid for the damage that had been done to them.

However, in these societies individuals were not considered equal under the law. A nobleman was worth much more than a peasant. As a result, if a peasant stole from a nobleman, he might be killed or badly mutilated as a punishment. On the other hand, if a nobleman killed a peasant, he might only be required to pay money to the victim's family.

Unless a crime has been witnessed or the offender has been caught in the act, it is very hard to prove that a person is guilty of a crime. The victim of a crime or his family is least able to honestly decide a man's guilt when it is in doubt. A victim is apt to react emotionally, violently, and too quickly. For this reason, the individual response to crime brings about much injustice.

In our own country, we have seen the results of an individual response to crime. Lynch mobs and vigilante groups, anxious to punish for horse stealing, robbery and murder, often hanged or severely punished innocent people. An untold number of people suffered or died unjustly under this informal brand of law enforcement.

Which statement best describes the *individual response* to crime?

___ a) Although the individual response to crime has been informal, it has been a fast and efficient way of dealing with crimes.

___ b) The individual response to crime has been an informal, revengeful process. It has been the cause of much injustice.

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

___ a) Although the individual response to crime has been informal, it has been a fast and efficient way of dealing with crimes.

X__ b) The individual response to crime has been an informal, revengeful process. It has been the cause of much injustice.

As Kingships with strong central authority were established, the handling of crime became the government's concern because it strengthened the King's authority. Individuals were no longer permitted to practice individual revenge.

Gradually, governments began to use formal courts to decide guilt or innocence. These courts eliminated the need for individuals to take the law into their own hands. Instead, a formal, impartial and fairer system of justice began to develop.

Why is the formal court system fairer than the informal individual response to crime?

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

The court system is designed to present a rational, impartial point of view towards a person suspected of a crime. The friends or family of a victim are apt to make emotional and unjust decisions in their haste to seek revenge for a crime.

Although the courts presented a fairer method of deciding guilt or innocence, the punishments assigned by early courts were often brutal and savage.

The early courts held the theory that strict punishment of an offender would prevent him from committing other crimes. The courts also believed that brutal punishment would serve as an example to others and would prevent them from committing crimes.

Flogging, branding with a hot iron, and mutilation were the most popular punishments used throughout history. However, the evidence shows that these punishments were not totally successful in preventing further crime.

In England, forgery and picking pockets were once crimes punishable by hanging. In spite of the severity of the punishments and the large numbers of public hangings, the crimes continued.

Throughout history, it has been shown that the threat of punishment does not necessarily prevent people from committing crimes.

Until 1961, the sentence for possessing marijuana in California was an *optional* 0-12 month jail sentence. In 1961, the penalty for possession of the drug was greatly increased to a *required* 1-10 year sentence in the state prison.

The California Legislature made the punishment for the crime more severe because they wanted to see if they could prevent it. Do you think the crime increased or decreased after the penalty was made more severe?

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

The crime *increased* in spite of the more severe penalty. In fact, the number of people arrested for marijuana possession in 1966 showed an increase of 514% over those arrested in 1961!

This increase may be partly due to stronger police arrest policy and to several other factors. But, overall, it is felt that the figures reveal that the threat of a more severe penalty was *not* effective in preventing the crime.

The state of California has experienced more than five years of increased penalties for attacks on policemen. A study of attacks made on Los Angeles policemen revealed that during this period the attacks have increased by 528%.

A statement which correctly summarizes the findings of the Los Angeles study might be: (choose one)

___ a) Crime does not pay.

___ b) As penalties for particular crimes are increased, there are fewer offenses because people are afraid of being punished.

___ c) The threat of severe punishment does not seem to prevent particular crimes.

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

___ a) Crime does not pay.

___ b) As penalties for particular crimes are increased, there are fewer offenses because people are afraid of being punished.

X__ c) The threat of severe punishment does not seem to prevent particular crimes.

Early in the 19th century, the penitentiary system was begun in America.

The penitentiary removed a man from society so he could no longer commit crimes. However, the main purpose of the penitentiary was to punish the criminal both physically and mentally so that he would never commit another crime.

In these early prisons, punishments consisted of the following:

1. **Isolation**—each man was confined to a single cell; his only contact was with a clergyman, members of the prison reform society, and the guards.
2. **Silence**—although prisoners worked and ate together, they were forbidden to talk.
3. **Physical abuse**—flogging, use of sweatboxes, and enforced wearing of the ball and chain were all standard procedures.
4. **Work**—hard and disagreeable tasks were assigned to prisoners; if there was no work, prisoners worked a useless treadmill* or a crank* to keep busy. Prisoners were regularly overworked or beaten with a whip if they failed to work fast enough.

* Treadmill—a machine operated by walking or running; sometimes used for grinding corn or pumping water; more often did nothing and was merely used as punishment.
* Crank—apparatus turned by hand; each rotation was counted automatically and degree of resistance could be adjusted; sole purpose was to keep a man employed and exhausted.

As society changed, so did the conditions in the prisons. People began to realize that locking a man up was, in itself, a severe punishment.

It is easy to see that when a man is locked up, he loses many things vital to his happiness:

- his privacy
- his freedom to make decisions
- the daily companionship of his family and friends
- a degree of his own self-respect
- the freedom to go where he wants, when he wants to

Realizing that prison was itself a punishment, prison authorities began to remove the other punishments such as flogging, isolation, and useless work, which have been a part of prison life.

It might be said that the prison system underwent a reform when society realized that: (choose one)

___ a) Hard work and physical punishment in prison prevent prisoners from committing crimes when they are released.

___ b) Locking a man in prison is a severe punishment and eliminates the need for further hardship and punishment while he is in prison.

___ c) People who commit crimes cannot be changed.

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

___ a) Hard work and physical punishment in prison prevent prisoners from committing crimes when they are released.

X__ b) Locking a man in prison is a severe punishment and eliminates the need for further hardship and punishment while he is in prison.

___ c) People who commit crimes cannot be changed.

Are you short and muscular?

Turn page . . .

If you are short and muscular, according to the theory of an early 20th century Italian physician, Cesare Lombroso, you are a "born criminal".

Luckily for the short and muscular people, other scholars proved Lombroso's theory false by pointing out large numbers of short, muscular people who had never committed a crime of any sort.

Throughout this century, studies have been made in an attempt to prove that there is a physical basis for crime. However, the theory has never been scientifically proven.

Law-abiding citizens differ widely in body type, personality, intelligence, and background. People with criminal records differ in just as many ways. It would appear that there is no such thing as a "born criminal". And yet, many theories still exist which attempt to explain crime by finding one specific cause.

One theory of crime explains that if a person has criminal friends and is exposed to criminal ideas, he will become criminal himself. This is the theory of *differential association*.

The theory of differential association applies to some people who commit crimes. For instance, it applies to the teenager who steals a car because he is with a gang of friends who are encouraging him to "prove himself".

Frederick Johns, a bank teller, was arrested for embezzlement of funds at the bank where he had worked for ten years. He had never committed a crime before and knew no one who had ever been arrested or been in jail. During his trial, Johns stated that he had embezzled the funds because he was in debt. He could give no other reason for his crime.

Do you think the theory of differential association can be used to explain the case of Frederick Johns?

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

The theory probably does not apply in this case. As we have seen, Johns had no criminal friends. In fact, his crime seems to have been an attempt to solve the problem of his debts, not the result of criminal associations.

To date, no theory has been devised that can explain all criminal behavior or all criminal personalities. Often, a theory explains why a person might commit a crime, but it cannot explain why a non-criminal might have the same characteristics or background. This drawback is most obvious when we speak of the *single factor* theories of crime causation. We will discuss some of these on the next few pages.

Studies have shown that many juvenile delinquents come from homes where divorce, death, or desertion has separated the parents. Therefore, many people hold the theory that delinquency has a single cause: broken homes.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE:

a) Many delinquents come from homes where both parents are present.
b) Many young people who have never committed an offense come from broken homes.
c) Many delinquents committed offenses before one parent was permanently absent from the home.

The above statements show that the theory which states that broken homes are the single cause of delinquency is: (choose one)

___ a) correct
___ b) incorrect

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

b) incorrect

Obviously, there is much proof that broken homes are not the single cause of delinquency.

Much crime occurs in slum areas where the residents are poor and the living conditions crowded and uncomfortable. For this reason, there is a theory which states that poverty and substandard housing are the cause of crime.

The following statements are true:

a) The majority of people living in poverty and slums are law-abiding.
b) Jails and prison populations include many people who are *not* poor and do *not* live in slums.

After reading the above statements, do you think that the theory that poverty and substandard housing are the cause of crime is a correct one?

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

The theory is not correct. Although much crime occurs as a result of the frustrations of poverty and bad living conditions, it is incorrect to say that this is *the* cause of crime.

Another theory of the cause of crime is that individuals commit crimes because they are emotionally disturbed or mentally ill. Although some mentally ill people commit crimes, there are many who never commit a crime. Also, it has been proven that many of the people who commit crimes are not mentally ill or disturbed.

The facts seem to show that mental illness and emotional disturbance can be considered: (choose one)

___ a) the cause of crime

___ b) factors which may cause *some* crimes

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

b) factors which may cause *some* crimes

No doubt, many of the theories that we have been discussing are correct in some degree. Several theories point out factors that may contribute to criminal behavior. However, it would be impossible to prove that there is any single cause of crime.

By now you may be saying, "Well, what *does* cause crime? What makes a man become a criminal?"

Every man is a separate individual. The experiences that influence one man may not influence another. Poor living conditions, poverty, and hardship may inspire one man to escape his surroundings and make a success of his life. These same conditions may drive another to commit desperate and violent criminal acts.

Mental illness may cause one man to commit crimes. Another man's mental illness might never be noticeable or may make him totally helpless and incapable of criminal acts.

Many things influence human behavior. Personality, physical characteristics, background, environment, mental illness, and social contacts may all be considered factors which *influence* human behavior. But no one can point to *one* of these influences and prove that it causes individuals to commit crimes. If the cause of crime were so easily explained, shouldn't we have eliminated crime from our society years ago?

Which of the following statements are true and which are false?

	TRUE	*FALSE*
1. Generally all criminals fall into one or two categories: mentally ill or poor.	☐	☐
2. Poverty and hardship affect all men the same way and usually result in criminal behavior.	☐	☐
3. Poverty, social contacts, mental illness, and personality are several factors which may contribute to criminal behavior.	☐	☐
4. When working with prisoners, a good rule to remember might be: every man is a separate individual and therefore represents different problems and different needs.	☐	☐

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answers:

	TRUE	*FALSE*
1. Generally all criminals fall into one or two categories: mentally ill or poor. NOTE: We have seen that it is impossible to generalize about people who commit criminal acts.	☐	☒
2. Poverty and hardship affect all men the same way and usually result in criminal behavior. NOTE: The experiences which may influence one man may not influence another.	☐	☒
3. Poverty, social contacts, mental illness, and personality are several factors which may contribute to criminal behavior.	☒	☐
4. When working with prisoners, a good rule to remember might be: every man is a separate individual and therefore represents different problems and different needs.	☒	☐

Correctional programs, confinement practices and procedures, and the penitentiary system all had their beginnings in the jail. The contribution of the jail to the field of corrections has been extensive.

England in the 1500's had a complex system of local jails. In fact, almost every municipality and jurisdiction had its own jail. Our present system of local jails probably emerged from the English system.

The early colonists in America built our first jails, modeled on the jails they remembered from England. Like the English jails, the crowded, dirty conditions in these early colonial jails were unspeakable, and the jailers were often corrupt.

The Walnut Street jail, established in 1790 in Philadelphia, was the beginning of the *modern* jail in America. Here, for the first time in this country, prisoners were classified according to sex, age, and the extent of their criminal acts. At the same time, prisoners were engaged in a system of productive labor and even had a crude system of self-government. Overall, the Walnut Street jail was the first American jail to use a policy of firmness and fairness rather than punishment in dealing with prisoners.

The Walnut Street jail was the first *modern* jail in America. Which of the following factors made it modern in comparison with the jails that came before it? (choose one or more)

___ a) Use of the treadmill
___ b) Isolation of all prisoners
___ c) Classification of prisoners according to age, sex and extent of criminal acts
___ d) Use of punishment to keep prisoners under control
___ e) System of productive labor
___ f) Use of firmness and fairness rather than punishment in dealing with prisoners
___ g) Introduction of a crude system of self-government

Turn page to check your answer

Answer:

___ a) Use of the treadmill
___ b) Isolation of all prisoners
X c) Classification of prisoners according to age, sex, and extent of criminal acts
___ d) Use of punishment to keep prisoners under control
X e) System of productive labor
X f) Use of firmness and fairness rather than punishment in dealing with prisoners
X g) Introduction of a crude system of self-government

c,e,f,g, are all factors which made the Walnut Street jail the first modern jail in America.

As long ago as 1913 Wisconsin passed the Huber Law. This law allowed jail prisoners to be released during the day to work at regular jobs in the community. And yet, it wasn't until 1965 that the Federal prisons began to use a similar system of work release for felons. In this instance, it is particularly easy to see that the jail has been a pioneer in the use of community resources for correctional purposes.

In recent years, more and more prisoners have been required to serve sentences in their community jails and other misdemeanant institutions rather than in prisons. For this reason, the jails are increasingly turning to the community to offer its resources for new correctional programs in addition to the established work release programs.

Schools and colleges are being used for study release programs and vocational training. Other community resources such as health clinics and hospitals are being used for various kinds of prisoner treatment.

Just as the jails once pioneered in the use of community resources for correction, they are again finding new ways of helping jail prisoners become part of their communities rather than the its outcasts.

A statement which summarizes the role of the jail in corrections might be: (choose one)

___ a) The jails have always followed the prisons in developing correctional programs.

___ b) Jails don't need to develop any correctional programs since prisoners seldom serve sentences in them.

___ c) The jail has often been a pioneer in the use of community resources for correctional programs. Today the correctional role of the jail is increasing because more and more offenders are serving sentences there instead of in prisons.

___ d) The jail was once a pioneer in the use of community resources for correctional programs. Today the prisons have taken over this role since jails are no longer in the business of corrections.

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

___ a) The jails have always followed the prisons in developing correctional programs.

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___ d) The jail was once a pioneer in the use of community resources for correctional programs. Today the prisons have taken over this role since jails no longer are in the business of corrections.

The criminal justice system basically consists of:

The Police:	responsible for criminal investigation and apprehension.
The Jail:	responsible for detention and, in some cases, for short sentence confinement and rehabilitation.
The Courts:	responsible for determination of guilt or innocence and type of sentence.
Correctional Institutions:	responsible for long-term confinement and rehabilitation.

Each of the parts of the criminal justice system must cooperate closely with the other in order to keep the system working smoothly and efficiently.

Over 5 1/2 million people a year are detained in jails or workhouses for some period of time, whether that period is for an hour, overnight, or for months. No other method of confinement is experienced by such a large number of people. And since the jail directly affects so many individuals, it is considered a vitally important and influential element of the criminal justice system.

A study of the criminal justice system shows that the jail is not an independent institution. Police arrests determine the population of the jail. And court policies and schedules determine many of the activities of the jail.

If the police, at the request of the community, frequently arrest drunks and vagrants, the jail will, of necessity, be required to hold these people. In this way, the jail is the passive recipient of police arrest policies.

The jail is responsible for holding any person who is *legally* arrested and can be *legally* received by the jail. It does not function as an independent unit, picking and choosing its own prisoners.

The jail is required to work closely with the police in other ways.

Often, when the accused is in jail, there is a need for cooperation between jail personnel and police. This is particularly true in cases where partners in crime are being held in the same jail. The jail personnel must keep these men apart so that they will not have the opportunity to invent a story or an alibi to present to the police.

When a long-term investigation is taking place, the jail must help the police by making the accused person available to the police, the prosecuting attorney and the defense counsel.

The jail accepts anyone who has been legally arrested and can be legally detained in the jail. The jail also cooperates with the police by making prisoners available and providing space for police investigations.

The above statement is:

___ True

___ False

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:
The statement is *True*.

The jail must also coordinate with the courts. This need is often shown by the physical closeness of the jails and the courts; they are often located in the same building.

In many ways, the jail is a department of the court. It must:

- learn the results of trials and the accompanying sentencing decisions
- act upon court orders given to produce prisoners for trial or to release them from jail

The sentencing decisions of the courts have an effect on the size of the jail population and on the extent of the jail's involvement in programs such as work release. For instance, often a court may tend to sentence offenders to the jail instead of to workhouses or work farms. Naturally, this has the effect of increasing the jail population.

In jurisdictions where the courts frequently decide to use probation and suspended sentence, the jail population is greatly reduced.

Often courts sentence prisoners to work release programs. Naturally, this type of sentencing tends to expand the program activities in many jails.

Also, when the court sentences an offender to a correctional institution, workhouse, or work farm, the jail is often responsible for transportation and delivery of the prisoner.

Which of the following statements are true and which are false?

	TRUE	*FALSE*
1. In some jurisdictions, the court and jail are located in the same building. This physical closeness illustrates the need for close cooperation between the jail and the courts.	☐	☐
2. The courts are always trying to make things hard for jail personnel by giving them more work to do.	☐	☐
3. If the courts usually sentence offenders to work-houses and work farms, the jail population will tend to decrease.	☐	☐
4. The jails act independently of the courts.	☐	☐
5. Once the jail is sure that a prisoner has appeared before the court, it has no further responsibilities to the court.	☐	☐
6. The size of the jail population and the activities of the jail are strongly influenced by the sentencing decisions of the court.	☐	☐

Turn page for answer . . .

Answers:

	TRUE	FALSE
1. In some jurisdictions, the court and jail are located in the same building. This physical closeness illustrates the need for close cooperation between the jail and the courts.	X	
2. The courts are always trying to make things hard for jail personnel by giving them more work to do.		X
3. If the courts usually sentence offenders to workhouses and work farms, the jail population will tend to decrease.	X	
4. The jails act independently of the courts.		X
5. Once the jail is sure that a prisoner has appeared before the court, it has no further responsibilities to the court.		X
6. The size of the jail population and the activities of the jail are strongly influenced by the sentencing decisions of the court.	X	

As we have seen earlier, the trend in criminal justice is for the courts and communities to call upon the jails to become increasingly involved in correctional programs. Whereas it was once believed that the jail served mainly as a place of detention, it is now believed that the jail must serve many functions in the community. Correction is becoming one of the most important of these functions.

Since a jail does not simply exist for purposes of detention, you, the jail officer, are *more* than a law enforcement officer. You are also an important member of the criminal justice system and, as such, you are involved in the effort to *rehabilitate* offenders.

Community and state resources such as welfare and health agencies, vocational rehabilitation agencies, and schools and colleges can all be used by the jail in developing a successful corrections program. Increasingly, it is the responsibility of the jail to look for these resources and to see that offenders benefit from the services they offer.

Because of its increasing responsibility to rehabilitate prisoners, the jail is becoming an important part of the: (choose one)

___ a) correctional system
___ b) law enforcement system

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

X a) correctional system

___ b) law enforcement system

No one is sure of how the job of jailer originated. But there is some evidence to show that early jailers were often cruel, corrupt, and untrained.

In England, prisoners were required to pay jailers for all food and services in the jail. This included such incredible practices as requiring payment for having leg irons removed. An 18th century writer described jailers of this period as:

> . . . low-bred, mercenary and oppressive, barbarous fellows who think of nothing but enriching themselves by the most cruel extortion and have less regard of a poor prisoner than for the life of a brute.

Needless to say, the responsibilities and personalities of jailers are much different today.

The present day role of the jailer is a complex and important one. His duties range from locking cell doors to supervising prisoner activities. Since the jailer has more contact with prisoners than any other staff member, it is believed that he has the most influence on the prisoners themselves and upon the overall climate of the jail.

Prisoners look to the jail officer as a representative of the criminal justice system and of society in general. A jail officer who demonstrates discontent with court decisions and jail policy by showing his own disregard for rules, presents a poor example to prisoners. Often his conduct gives prisoners reasons for making excuses for their own behavior.

Two jail officers, John Seward and Jim Towne, were eating lunch in the jail dining room one day. Prisoner Lawrence Sikes was working near them and overheard their loud conversation.

Seward: "Had a real ball this weekend deer hunting."

Towne: "Hunting season doesn't start for two weeks, does it?"

Seward: "So what? Jack Brown and I just went out at night—turned on the car lights and blinded the deer. It's a cinch to shoot them then. We got out of there before anyone caught us. Great sport, eh?"

Towne: "Next time invite me, too!"

Sikes is serving a two-year sentence for passing bad checks. To his mind, poaching deer is just as much of an illegal act as his own and deserves an equal penalty. He reacted to this conversation with bitterness and anger against the criminal justice system which locked him up and seems to overlook the misdeeds of jail officers.

Seward and Towne showed a disregard for their role as representatives of the criminal justice system by: (choose one)

___ a) not including Sikes in the conversation.
___ b) talking too loudly in the dining room.
___ c) discussing their own misdeeds and lack of respect for the law during working hours in the jail.

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

___ a) not including Sikes in the conversation.
___ b) talking too loudly in the dining room.
_X_ c) discussing their own misdeeds and lack of respect for the law during working hours in the jail.

In order for the jail officer to function in a professional manner, he must master his *emotions* and the *skills of his job*.

A professional jail officer does not allow himself to have an emotional reaction to prisoners. Such behavior results in loss of control in the jail as well as unequal treatment of prisoners.

Robert Closkey, a jail officer, prides himself on his strict treatment of men accused of such crimes as child molesting and rape. He cuts visiting hours short for these men, denies them recreation on many occasions and often delays the serving of their food until it is cold. No one can deny that the crimes are shocking and serious. But the decision of the prisoner's guilt or innocence as well as the seriousness of the crime lies with the courts, not with Robert Closkey.

Closkey's conduct as a jail officer is:

___ a) unprofessional
___ b) understandable
___ c) unusual
___ d) correct

Turn page to check your answer . . .

Answer:

X a) unprofessional
___ b) understandable
___ c) unusual
___ d) correct

Joseph Green, a jail officer, had a reputation for being overly sympathetic. The prisoners in the jail were all aware of his "soft-hearted" personality.

Recently, a prisoner attracted Green's attention and told him that he was having problems at home and wasn't able to talk to his wife and straighten things out. He requested that Green visit his home which was nearby and try to reason with his wife so that she would visit him in the jail. Green felt sorry for the prisoner and visited the prisoner's home that night after work.

The next day, the prisoner refused to work or follow Green's orders. He threatened to make a complaint accusing Green of having an affair with his wife if any disciplinary action was taken. The other prisoners, observing the preferential treatment Green was giving the prisoner, also refused to follow orders. Green was forced to transfer to a job that did not require direct contact with prisoners.

It might be said that Green's behavior caused him to:

___ a) hate prisoners
___ b) lose control in the jail
___ c) be promoted to a better job

Turn page to check your answer.

Answer:

___ a) hate prisoners

_X_ b) lose control in the jail

___ c) be promoted to a better job

Green's behavior was unprofessional and caused him to lose control over the prisoner's behavior.

The right of the prisoner to the protection of his health and welfare is a legal requirement, supported by court decisions. Later in the course we will see how recent court decisions have decided in favor of prisoners who demonstrate that they have been deprived of this right while in jail.

It is *not* the job of the jail officer to withhold this right or to provide extra considerations to prisoners of his own choosing.

Jails are normally safe places if the staff acts professionally and in accordance with jail policy. Failure of a jail officer to carry out his duties efficiently and in a responsible manner may result in a security breakdown that may endanger lives and property. In the following chapters, the duties of the jailer will be discussed thoroughly and the vast importance of the jail officer's role will become more apparent.

Indicate which of the following statements are true and which are false:

	TRUE	*FALSE*
1. It never hurts for a jailer to show sympathy towards a prisoner as long as he believes the prisoner is innocent.	☐	☐
2. A person loses his rights as soon as he is sentenced to jail.	☐	☐
3. A professional attitude towards the job consists of controlling emotions and mastering the skills of the job.	☐	☐
4. Child molesters deserve to be harassed by jail officers.	☐	☐
5. A jail officer who brags in the jail of breaking a regulation, getting a speeding ticket, or disagreeing with a court decision often is the cause of a breakdown of order in the jail.	☐	☐

Turn page to check your answers . . .

Answers:

	TRUE	FALSE
1. It never hurts a jailer to show sympathy towards a prisoner as long as he believes the prisoner is innocent. NOTE: It is not the jail officer's job to decide guilt or innocence. The case of Joseph Green shows what happens when a jail officer demonstrates sympathy for a prisoner.		X
2. A person loses his rights as soon as he is sentenced to jail. NOTE: The right of sentenced persons to the protection of their health and welfare is a legal requirement, supported by the courts.		X
3. A professional attitude towards the job consists of controlling emotions and mastering the skills of the job.	X	
4. Child molesters deserve to be harrassed by jail officers. NOTE: It is the right of every prisoner to be treated equally by his jail officers.		X
5. A jail officer who brags in the jail of breaking a regulation, getting a speeding ticket, or disagreeing with a court decision often is the cause of a breakdown of order in the jail.	X	

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